Lions Compete To Aid Blind

RICHMOND, Va. -- Lions Club members throughout the eastern half of Virginia are vigorously and enthusiastically competing in a contest in which the big winners will be the blind of our state.

In each of the three Lions Districts in the area -- Northern, Central, and Tidewater -- both clubs and individual Lions members are competing for Club- of -the- Year and Man-of-the-Year plaques to be awarded for submitting the greatest number of signed eye-donor pledge cards to Old Dominion Eye Bank, which is entirely supported by the Lions.

The contest started September 1 and will continue until April 30, 1972. The first such contest, which was conducted last year, resulted in the collection of three times as many donor cards as had ever been received by the Eye Bank in one year and boosted the total number of donor cards on file by over 20%. This year, the Lions are out to best that record.

Virginians can help the blind and help their local Lions Club at the same time by requesting a donor card from a local Lions Club member. By signing a donor card, one pledges his eye tissue, on death, to the Old Dominion Eye Bank for use in a sight-restoring corneal transplant operation. Some ten percent of those who are blind can be helped by such transplants - if human eye tissue is available. It is estimated that, worldwide, some five million persons could be given restored or improved sight through a corneal transplant.

U. D. C. MEETS THURSDAY

The Appomattox Chapter of U. D. C. will meet Thursday evening, December 16 at the County Library. This meeting will be their annual Christmas Party. There will be an exchange of gifts among the Members.

1970 Net $11,107

Tobacco Co-op's Tab To Farmers $130,000

The Virginia dark-fired tobacco growers marketing Cooperative, with headquarters at Farmville, netted $11,107 on 1970-71 operations, T. B. Hall, Jr., general manager, reported to the membership in annual session Friday.

The farmer organization, the Virginia Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Marketing Association, had income primarily from warehouse handling charges and rents, of $134,462.98 and expenses of $120,087.69.

This represented a gross of $14,375.29 from which the co-op had to pay corporation income taxes of $3,268, leaving the net cited above. The net profit for the previous year was $13,000, Hall said for a comparison.

Since its organization, the Association has paid out $100,000 in patronage refund of profits to growers, the general manager disclosed. Presently it owes growers $130,000 representing the cooperative's share in the last patronage pay-out of $22,000 on the 1948 crop.

Patronage Lag

"We're still a long way behind," Hall acknowledged. However, the books show growers for some reason have never cashed checks or are not reachable by mail to the extent that $20,000 of the $100,000 paid out remains outstanding and is an obligation against current cash reserves, Hall asked for help in clearing these accounts out.

The Association has current liquid assets in cash, savings and investments of $52,480.75. Its fixed assets in warehouse property in Farmville (Old Warehouse and Lynchburg (New Farmers) and a storage building at Blackstone amount to $207,000 based on acquisition costs. These have been depreciated by $81,291, giving the organization's property assets a book value of $126,054.21.

Liabilities

The co-op's liabilities amount to $180,517, with the great bulk of that being the $130,900 owed to growers from their shares of operating profits since 1948 . . . he year of the last refund.

Hall said the storage building t Blackstone, no longer used in operations which have been ransferred from Blackstone to Cenbridge, has a depreciated alue of $10,000 but is worth nore than that, "We have tried to ell it without success, since it as produced no income now for hree years."

He considers its value well in xcess of $10,000 and its worth s augmented by its available railroad siding.

1970 Crop Review

In commenting on last year's lark-fired marketing results, for ll interests, cooperative and private interests alike, Hall said, "We're attempting hard to hold production and poundage up, and a little progress can be reported."

While last year's dark-fired average for the season was just above $52, it was off $1.17 over the previous year. However, the 1970 market was far more steady than in 1969 and never tailed off. This gave late-selling growers the same price break as early marketing ones.

Hall said sales last year indicate Kenbridge is picking up poundage as more farmers in that area are planting more. Compared to 1969, growers marketed about 375,000 pounds less at Lynchburg, 125,000 less at Farmville, but about 65,000 more at the Kenbridge warehouse.

Testimony Filed By VEPCO

Rate relief is essential to meet Virginia's future power needs, T. Justin Moore, Jr., president of Virginia Electric and Power Company, said Tuesday, Nov. 30, in testimony filed with the State Corporation Commission of Virginia.

Vepco, currently engaged in a $2 billion, five-year construction program submitted its testimony in support of its August 16 application for increased revenues. The Commission has scheduled hearings to begin March 6.

Mr. Moore said that the demands for electricity by Vepco customers are increasing so rapidly that the company must raise its power capability from 5,942,000 kilowatts in 1971 to 10,133,000 kilowatts in 1975 at a cost of $2 billion. This is greater than the entire net investment in the company since its beginning in the early 1900s to the end of 1970, he said.

Under the proposed rates, a residential customer currently using 750 kilowatt-hours monthly would pay an average increase of $5.65 per month.

With the increase, the average unit cost per kilowatt-hour for residential customers would be 2.57 cents, still lower than the cost in 1956, according to Mr. Moore. "And electricity is still about the only product available today at less than what it cost 15 years ago."

The increase would mean that the company would receive an additional 17.5 percent, or $56.7 million, in annual revenues based on the latest 1971 estimates.

Vepco's request is in addition to the approximately seven percent increase in emergency relief granted in June.

Skyrocketing costs of fuel, increased expenses for environmental protection, overall construction costs and rising interest rates on borrowed money have caused the company's financial position to deteriorate rapidly during the past two years, Mr. Moore said.

The testimony filed Nov. 30 included a request for a fuel adjustment clause similar to those now in effect for the majority of the nation's electric utilities, he said.

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